

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached eighteen (18) formal replacement sheets include Figures 1 through 22, and replace the original sheets including Figures 1 through 22. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the eighteen (18) formal replacement sheets submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 39-46 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, 16, 22, and 29 are amended. New claims 39-46 are added.

Claims 31-38 have been cancelled hereby without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. These claims are cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile these cancelled claims and contest any rejections or objections thereof in a subsequent application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

In addition, Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for participating in the telephone conference with Applicants' attorney on January 31, 2005. During that telephone conference, the Examiner agreed to make of record in the present application U.S. Patent No. 4,498,646 to Proksch and U.S. Patent No. 5,875,998 to Gleine (both of which were recently cited in allowed Application No. 10/678,474). For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants provide herewith a Form 1449 citing Proksh and Gleine.

PROVISIONAL NON-STATUTORY DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 1-33 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over presently allowed claims 1-77 of copending Application No. 10/678,474.

While Applicants do not acquiesce in this double patenting rejection, Applicants nevertheless file simultaneously herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) for purposes of expediting prosecution. Accordingly, the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The cancellation of claims 32 and 33 has rendered moot the Section 112 rejections thereof. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2. Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile these cancelled claims and contest any rejections or objections thereof in a subsequent application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 12-30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lotz (U.S. Patent 4,856,735) in view of Grant (U.S. Patent 2,772,058). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claim 32 has rendered moot the Section 103(a) rejections thereto. In addition, the Office Action states that claims 11 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 16, 22, and 29 have been amended to include the recitations of claim 31. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 (and claims 2-10 and 12-15 depending therefrom), claim 16 (and claims 17-21 depending therefrom), claim 22 (and claims 23-28 depending therefrom), and claim 29 (and claim 30 depending therefrom) are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claims 1-10, 12-30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that claims 11 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As noted above, claims 1, 16, 22, and 29 have been amended to include the recitations of claim 31. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 (and claims 2-10 and 12-15 depending therefrom), claim 16 (and claims 17-21 depending therefrom), claim 22 (and claims 23-28 depending therefrom), and claim 29 (and claim 30 depending therefrom) are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been rewritten into independent form. Therefore, claim 11 should also be condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS 39-46

New claims 39-46 are each supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by claims 39-46.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the appropriate fees are included herewith. The Patent Office is hereby authorized, however, to charge Deposit Account No. **08-0750** for any additional fees or to credit any overpayments thereto.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7502.



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Respectfully submitted,
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